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Revenue (1948) Department.

Ms SERIES.

G.O. No. 546

Dated 12 3 48

[Despatch Abstract.]

GROW MORE FOOD : WELLS SCHEME IN AYACUTS OF TANKS : FORMATION OF : EXECUTIVE INSTRUCTIONS : ISSUED.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Revenue Department.

Memorandum No. 11322-E/48.2 dated the 23rd February 1948.

Sub: GROW MORE FOOD - Well Scheme in ayacuts of tanks - Formation of.

In order to get quick results and in a concentrated area, it has been suggested that a separate scheme for the construction of wells in the ayacuts of tanks should be undertaken and that this scheme may be called "Well Scheme in Ayacuts of Tanks". This scheme will be in addition to the New Well Subsidy Scheme which will be continued for next year also.

2. The advantages of this Scheme are that water can be easily found in these wells and that they will supplement the tank supply during the periods of deficiency. Recent reports on crop conditions showed that crops on lands in ayacuts which had the benefit of water supply from wells were saved to some extent. It will also be easy for the Revenue Officers to concentrate their attention on select compact areas instead of dissipating their energies over isolated fields scattered all over the village or taluk. The scheme may also be combined with the drive for repairs to Minor Irrigation Tanks for which an allotment of Rs. 37 lakhs has been made for 1948-49.

3. The main features of the scheme may be as follows:-

(i) that this will be a subsidy scheme i.e. the amount of subsidy will be given as a full grant in the first instance and it will not, as under the existing New Well Subsidy Scheme, be given as a loan under the Land Improvement Loans Act to be converted into a subsidy later, on satisfactory completion of the work; and

(ii) that a bonus of Rs. 100 a well will be given to a ryot who completes the well before 30th June 1948.

4. The main object of this scheme is to tide over the food crisis that may be most actuely felt during May to September 1948. Hence speed is the essence of the scheme. For this purpose, the Revenue Officers should be required to go to the spots concerned, get applications from the ryots and pass orders on them after such preliminary enquiry as is necessary. In order to enable the ryots to dig the wells before 30th June 1948 the Revenue Officers should see that the applications are sanctioned at least before the 15th April 1948.

5. The staff to be employed for this purpose, should for obvious reasons, be a separate special staff. This staff may be employed for such time as is necessary until the subsidies are sanctioned.

6. It is suggested that the scheme may come into force from the 1st April 1948.

7. The additional allotment required may be met from the provision of 1.6 crore~~made~~ in the Budget for 1948-49 for the extention of the New Well Subsidy Scheme.

8. The Board of Revenue is requested to offer its remarks on the proposals mentioned above. It is also requested to examine and report whether a special ~~staff~~ scheme for the construction of wells in the ayacut of tanks, as suggested above, is necessary or whether executive instructions to pay special attention to applications from the ayacut of existing irrigation tanks is sufficient.

9. The Board is requested to treat this matter as specially urgent and to submit its report before the end of this month.

P.S. VISWANATHA AIYER
Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

From
C.A. Ramakrishnan, Esq., I.C.S.,
Joint Secretary, Board of Revene,
Chepauk, MADRAS.

To
The Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department,
Madras.

Res.Rt. No. 1123 dated the 27th February 1948.

V.N. Kudva, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Land Revenue, Excise and Prohibition.

Sub: GROW MORE FOOD - Wells scheme in ayacuts of tanks - Formation of - Board's remarks - Submitted.

Ref: (1) Government Memorandum No.11322-E/48.2 Rev. dated 23-2-1948
(2) D.O. from the Joint Secretary, Revenue Department, No.11322-E/48.1 dated the 23rd February 1948.

RESOLUTION:

The Board submits the following remarks with reference to the Government Memorandum cited above.

The Government have proposed that the special scheme for the construction of wells in the ayacuts of tanks should come into effect on 1st April 1948 that subsidies should be sanctioned at least before 15th April 1948 and that the well works should be completed by 30th June 1948. Well sinking is a work which, to be executed satisfactorily, cannot be pushed through all over the Province in a month or two as now proposed by the Government. The Accelerated scheme was also introduced in February-March 1946 with a view to enable a short term crop under the subsidiesed wells after the completion of the well works. Although subsidies were granted for the construction of 61,961 new wells and for the repair of 30,645 old wells only 3,177 new wells had been completed and 1,797 old wells repaired by the end of June 1946, in spite of the special drive carried on by the special staff appointed for the purpose. In fact, a large number of new wells which were subsidiesed under the Accelerated Scheme are still incomplete and the Government have had to extend the time for their completion till 30th June 1948. The delay in the completion of well works cannot be solely attributed to the indifference of the ryots as they are aware of the fact that the failure to complete the works in time will entail the recovery of the subsidy granted as an arrear of land revenue. The other contributary causes for the delay are the difficulty in getting materials and labour, both skilled and unskilled.

In addition to the wells for which subsidies were granted under the Accelerated Scheme which still remain incomplete, a large number of wells have been granted subsidy-loans under the New Well Subsidy Scheme. All these wells will have to be completed by 30th June 1948. There is already a keen demand for materials and labour. Special steps have to be taken for the supply of cement required for these wells. In the circumstances, the introduction of a New Scheme which will also entail the construction of another set of a large number of wells before 30th June 1948 will create an unhealthy competition among ryots with the result that there will be confusion, and neither the wells already subsidised nor those for which subsidies have to be granted now will be completed and there will be no justification for finding fault with the grantees for failure to complete the wells by 30th June 1948.

The suggestion that the amounts to be advanced by the Government should be paid straigtaway as subsidies and that in a very short period , will in the Board's opinion, give great room for malpractices and frauds especially as the terms offered under the New Scheme are more attrative than those under the present scheme.

An allotment of 1.5 crores has to be spent before 31st March 1948 under the New Well Subsidy scheme now in force. In many districts the allotment will be exceeded. The Board considers that when a good number of wells are being sunk even under the present scheme there is no reason to divise a more attrative scheme.

For the reasons stated above, the Board is not in favour of formulating a special scheme for the construction of wells in the

ayacuts of tanks and considers that it would be sufficient to issue executive instructions to the special staff that special attention should be paid to wells under the ayacuts of irrigation tanks when attending to the applications under the New Wells Subsidy Scheme. The Special staff could also be expanded as and when necessary so as to deal with the applications more expeditiously than now.

Sd/. for Joint Secretary.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Abstract
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GROW MORE FOOD - Wells Scheme in Ayacuts of Tanks - Formation of - Executive instructions -Issued.

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Revenue Department.

G.O. (Ms) No. 546. Dated, the 12th March 1948

READ - the following:

From the Board of Revenue, Res. Rt. 1123 dated the 27th February 1948.

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ORDER:

In the circumstances reported, the Government concur in the Board's view that it would be sufficient to issue executive instructions to the special staff for subsidy loans work that special attention should be paid to wells under the ayacuts of irrigation tanks when dealing with the applications under the New Well Subsidy Scheme. The Board of Revenue is requested to issue necessary instructions to the Collectors in the matter.

(By order of His Excellency the Governor)

S. VENKTESWARA IYER
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

/True copy/

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office, Egmore.

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